What is claimed is:

1   1.   A system, comprising:

2   an inter-company collaboration system comprising:

3   a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first company,

4   a first data storage mechanism associated with the first set of utility servers,

5   a first set of resources residing on the first set of utility servers,

6   a secure network connection between the first set of utility servers and a

7   second company, and

8   a first access control mechanism configured to control access, by the first

9   company and the second company, to the first set of resources and to

10   the secure network connection, wherein access to the first set of

11   resources is limited to specific authorized individuals that are

12   associated with the first company and specific authorized individuals

13   that are associated with the second company; and

14   an isolated system that is communicatively coupled to the collaboration system,

15   comprising:

16   a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first company;

17   a second data storage mechanism associated with the second set of utility

18   servers, the second data storage mechanism including

19   a first storage portion that contains data that is shared with the

20   collaboration system, and

21   a second storage portion that contains data that is private to the

22   isolated system; and

23   a second access control mechanism configured to control access to the second

24   set of utility servers, wherein access to the second set of utility servers

25   is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated only

26   with the first company.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a switching mechanism coupled to the first

2   data storage mechanism and the second data storage mechanism, configured to

3   control copying of the data that is shared with the collaboration system to the first and

4   second data storage mechanisms and to control copying of the data that is private to

5   the isolated system to only the second data storage mechanism.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the data that is private to the isolated system includes

2   source code associated with a software application.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the software application is an electronic design

2   automation (EDA) application.

1   5.   The system of claim 3, wherein the data that is shared with the collaboration system

2   includes a set of data that represents an electronic design created using the software

3   application.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the isolated system further comprises:

2   a second set of resources residing on the second set of utility servers, wherein the

3   second set of resources includes a compiler.

1   7.   A method for providing a secure system for working in isolation from an associated

2   inter-company collaboration system, the method comprising:

15448-0514

3   controlling access to a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first

4   company, wherein access to the first set of utility servers is limited to specific

5   authorized individuals that are associated with the first company;

6   controlling access to a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by a

7   second company, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is limited

8   to specific authorized individuals that are associated with the second

9   company;

10   controlling access to a secure network connection between the first and second sets of

11   utility servers, wherein access to the secure network connection is limited to

12   specific authorized individuals that are associated with the first company or

13   the second company;

14   controlling access to a third set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first

15   company, wherein access to the third set of utility servers is limited to specific

16   authorized individuals that are associated only with the first company;

17   providing access to shared data to at least the first set of utility servers and the third

18   set of utility servers; and

19   providing access to private data to only the third set of utility servers.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the private data includes software application source

2   code, the method further comprising:

3   using the third set of utility servers to debug the source code.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the private data includes electronic design

2   automation (EDA) application source code, the method further comprising:

3   using the third set of utility servers to debug the source code.

15448-0514

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the private data includes electronic design

2   automation (EDA) application source code and the shared data includes a set of data

3   that represents an electronic design created using the application, the method further

4   comprising:

5   using the third set of utility servers, in conjunction with the shared data, to debug the

6   source code.

1 11. A system for providing a secure system for working in isolation from an associated

2   inter-company collaboration system, the system comprising:

3   means for controlling access to a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by

4   a first company, wherein access to the first set of utility servers is limited to

5   specific authorized individuals that are associated with the first company;

6   means for controlling access to a second set of one or more utility servers maintained

7   by a second company, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is

8   limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated with the second

9   company;

10   means for controlling access to a secure network connection between the first and

11   second sets of utility servers, wherein access to the secure network connection

12   is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated with the first

13   company or the second company;

14   means for controlling access to a third set of one or more utility servers maintained by

15   the first company, wherein access to the third set of utility servers is limited to

16   specific authorized individuals that are associated only with the first company;

17   means for providing access to shared data to at least the first set of utility servers and

18   the third set of utility servers; and

19   means for providing access to private data to only the third set of utility servers.

15448-0514